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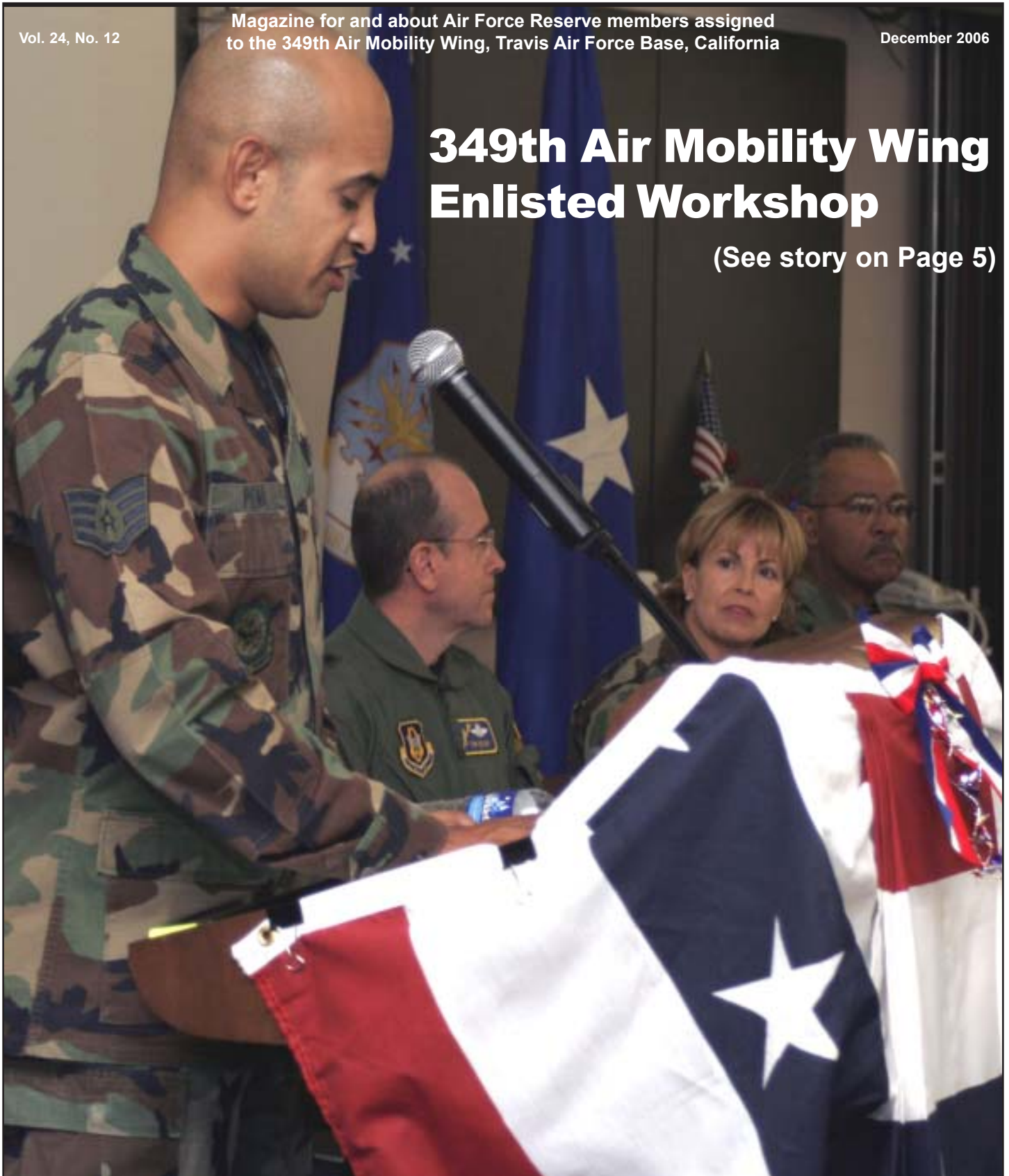
Vol. 24, No. 12

Magazine for and about Air Force Reserve members assigned
to the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California

December 2006

349th Air Mobility Wing Enlisted Workshop

(See story on Page 5)



Take time, reflect, recharge

It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost here and soon another new year.

The holiday season is upon us and that always means activity of a different sort. In addition to our military duties, we now add family celebrations, travel, shopping, and trying to find time to fit all this activity into an already crowded schedule. Please take a few moments to appreciate how fortunate we are to live in the greatest country in the world; to have families and friends who love and appreciate us; to be a part of a group that is a force for good in an often harsh and uncaring world.

This is truly the time of year to stop, reflect and realize that around the world, so many others, no matter what their beliefs, are celebrating the season as a time of joy, hope, and perhaps, peace. You and I wear the uniform to help ensure that this joy, hope and perhaps peace continues in this great nation and with our partners around

the globe.

When I look around I see the finest group of men and women in the Air Force Reserve. I see the camaraderie of 349th folks who are donating time and energy to make the holiday season bright for local underprivileged children by giving them Christmas gifts and food for their tables. I see aircrews, support, medical and logistics folks toiling long hours into the night to ensure the mission gets accomplished in the wake of combating the Global War on Terrorism.

This month is a time to remember all the good things we've done for each other: the relief supplies delivered, the humanitarian missions flown, the everyday sacrifices made for others in need. It's time to realize that the vast majority of us truly want peace in this world. As my vice commander, Col. Bob Millmann, always says, "you are all heroes," and I want you all to remember that each of you are heroes



By Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr.

and to feel that pride and distinction everyday you put on that uniform.

Each of you are people willing to help and serve others before yourself. That's the spirit of the 349th. And that's the true spirit of this Christmas season. Embrace that as you enjoy some well-deserved time with your family and friends.

Cleo and I wish all of you and your families a safe and joyous Christmas and may the peace of the season become a reality in the New Year. God Bless!



349th Air Mobility Wing Holiday Food Drive

The annual Wing Chaplain's Holiday Food Drive will continue through Dec. 19. The goal is to collect as much nonperishable food to assist a local area organization that helps out people in need through Heather House.

Last year the 349th AMW donated more than two tons of food to the Food Bank of Solano County. Let's work together and try and double last year's collections!

Collection bins will be clearly labeled and located in each squadron, all canned and nonperishable food will be accepted.

Donation may also be dropped off at the Wing Chaplain's Office in Bldg. 237, Bay F, first floor. Thanks for helping to add joy to the holiday season - together we CAN make a difference! For more information or to volunteer to help, please call (707) 424-0308.



courtesy photo



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CONTACT

Vol. 24, No. 12

December 2006

Inside this issue

4 Command Chief Commentary

Command Chief Master Sgt. Patricia A. Thornton's commentary shares some of her favorite motivational words of wisdom.

5 Wing Enlisted Workshop - "Family, Service and Self"

The 349th Wing has its 6th annual enlisted workshop hosted by Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing commander.

6-7 349th Air Mobility Wing's Award Ball - "Service Before Self"

Military personnel and their guests arrived at the Delta Breeze Club for the first 349th Air Mobility Wing Awards Ball sponsored by the 349th Company Grade Officers' Council.

8 Chief of Staff of the Air Force lauds today's Airmen

Speaking at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley told the crowd how he is proud to wear the same uniform and serve alongside today's men and women of the Air Force.

8 Justice Department web site explains military rights

The Department of Justice has launched a web site explaining the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

10 News briefs from around the Air Force

11 349th Air Mobility Wing Enlisted Promotions

12 'Spotlight' Airman - highlights exceptional 349th members

On the Cover



Cover photo by Laura Fentress, Base Multimedia Center

Workshop: Staff Sgt. Eric Pena, 349th Security Forces Squadron and one of the service's top enlisted 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2005, speaks to the enlisted members and guests attending the three-day 349th Wing Enlisted Workshop, "Family, Service and Self," Oct. 18-20. Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., commander, 349th Air Mobility Wing, Chief Master Sgt. Patricia A. Thornton, 349th AMW command chief and Air Force Reserve Command command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, listen to Staff Sgt. Pena as he talks about his Air Force experiences. (See story on Page 5)

Our gift - our 'Ragged Old Flag'

As the holidays approach, here's a gift to all of us from the late Johnny Cash:

Ragged Old Flag

*I walked through a county courthouse square,
On a park bench an old man was sitting there.
I said, "Your old courthouse is kinda run down."
He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town."
I said, "Your flagpole has leaned a little bit,
And that's a Ragged Old Flag you got hanging on it.
He said, "Have a seat", and I sat down.
"Is this the first time you've been to our little town?"
I said, "I think it is." He said, "I don't like to brag,
But we're kinda proud of that Ragged Old Flag."
"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there
When Washington took it across the Delaware.
And it got powder-burned the night Francis Scott Key
Sat watching it writing Oh Say Can You See.
And it got a bad rip in New Orleans*

*With Packingham and Jackson tuggin' at its seams."
"And it almost fell at the Alamo
Beside the Texas flag, but she waved on through.
She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville
And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.
There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard, and Bragg,
And the south wind blew hard on that Ragged Old Flag."
"On Flanders Field in World War I
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.
She turned blood red in World War II
She hung limp and low by the time it was through.
She was in Korea and Vietnam.
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam."
"She waved from our ships upon the briny foam,
And now they've about quit waving her back here at home.
In her own good land she's been*



By Command Chief Master Sgt. Patricia A. Thornton

*abused —
She's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused."
"And the government for which she stands
Is scandalized throughout the land.
And she's getting threadbare and wearing thin,
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in.
'Cause she's been through the fire before
And I believe she can take a whole lot more."
"So we raise her up every morning,
Take her down every night.
We don't let her touch the ground
And we fold her up right.
On second thought I DO like to brag,
'Cause I'm mighty proud of that Ragged Old Flag."
— Johnny Cash
All the best to you and yours for a blessed and joyful holiday season!*

Take moment, thank who's packing your parachute

by Chaplain (Capt.) Herbert Hodde, III
349th Air Mobility Wing

My sister sent me this article a few months ago. The story is simplistic, but the message remains very powerful. I trust it blesses your hearts as it did mine.

Charles Plumb was a U.S. Navy pilot in Vietnam, after 75 combat missions his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a communist Vietnamese prison.

One day, several years after his return, Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant. A man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied.

Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"

Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night. He kept thinking about the man. "I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform" a white hat, bib in the back, bell bottom pants. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said "Good morning, how are you?" I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving

the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now Plumb asks the question, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. We have many different types of parachutes, mental chutes, physical chutes, social chutes. The thing is you never really realize it until you need it.

As this wonderful time of the year draws upon us, too quickly I might add, I am thankful for my family, near and far. I am thankful for my military family, ever diligent, ever faithful, ever watchful, sleeping in their boots, so we all might sleep safely in our beds at night. Make sure you take a moment during this busy holiday season to thank whoever is 'packing your parachute.'

Wing Enlisted Workshop - *Family, Service, Self*

by Technical Sgt. Mary Beth Bemis
349th Public Affairs

The 6th Annual Wing Enlisted Workshop *'Family, Service and Self,'* conducted Oct. 18–20, was deemed a great success. “The best one yet,” was the claim made by many of the 200 attendees.

The workshop was hosted by Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing commander and supported by the Air Force Reserve Command’s command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Jack Winsett, and Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth A. Mitchell, 4th Air Force command chief and command chiefs from across the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air Guard, along with special guest, Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, commander, 4th Air Force. Also invited to share in this special event were community leaders such as Solano County Supervisor Mike Reagan, Dr. Dick Lowden from

Veteran Affairs and Collin Younger of United Services Automobile Association, Military Affairs and Financial Planning.

This year’s workshop was expanded from two-to-three days. The information was flowing, the questions were popping and the enthusiasm was high. The three days were a whirlwind of information and instruction. Some of the topics included: policy changes, waivers, mentoring by the chief’s panel, First Sergeants’ panel, fit to fight, promotions, personality tests, family services, education, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, personnel service delivery and a mini-job fair.

“The opportunity to engage and interact with the senior command personnel of the Air Force Reserve is a rare opportunity indeed. I’m glad I came to this workshop,” commented Master Sgt. Paul Ikeda, 45th Aerial Port Squadron.

Also in attendance were command chiefs from the various bases such as March Air Reserve Base, Calif., Beale Air Force Base, Calif., Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, McChord AFB, Wash., Moffit Field, San Jose, Calif., and as far away as Andrews AFB, Md. The 200 attendees of this three-day workshop were advised by Command Chief Master Sgt. Patricia Thornton to “hold onto your seats and get ready for some great briefings and valuable information.”

The three days were kicked off by General Gisler, who recently returned from a tour in Qatar. “We are a total force now. We are a reserve force involved in daily operations, doing things we have never done before,” he said. “Look at deployment as an opportunity. Be prepared for the where, what and how. Maximize your opportunity. Get ready.”

Chief Thornton urged,

“This is all about you. The information received over the next three days will be able to be applied to all aspects of your life – military, family and community.” She then enthusiastically welcomed Chief Master Sgt. Jack Winsett, the Air Force Reserve Command’s command chief.

“I will be attending a conference next week with all the wing commanders of the Air Force Reserve,” Chief Winsett said. “I will tell them that we have the best enlisted force ‘bar none.’ However, I want to improve our force even more. I am doing everything in my power to make sure that the chief master sergeants are more accountable to their people and creating positions to allow for more responsibility.” He continued with discussion of some of the hot issues facing the Air Force, Reserve and Air National Guard. “Our planes are old, money is tight, we don’t have any to buy new aircraft,” the Chief commented. “The Air Force has been instructed to downsize by 40,000 personnel and we (the Reserve) have to downsize by over 7,700. This means that we will need to be judicious in our spending. Personnel retention is the key. It keeps the costs down if we don’t have to keep retraining new Airmen.”

When the floor was opened for questions, the attendees were eager to get some insight on the future base closings, new assignments, attrition rates, impact on Air Reserve Technicians, new uniforms, budget impact, retirements and the Air Guard Reserve programs. The Chief said that “Yes” bases are closing, “Yes” assignments are opening, new plans will be in place. He emphasized that recruiting met its goal by mid-August and retention is at a high of 92 percent, with first term Airmen at 94 percent. The Chief believes retention to be high because “we care.” High-year-tenure is changing, and the out-of-control extensions will stop, because it affects the enlisted force in a negative way – no upward mobility and promotions. Reserve extensions have been eradicated. ARTs will be impacted by base closures, but there are applications available online to apply for transfers.

The new Airman Battle Uniform will replace the current Battle Dress Uniforms and the cost of about \$30K in Research

See Workshop Page 9



Photo by Laura Fentress, Base Multimedia Center

Command Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, Air Force Reserve Command, speaks to the enlisted members and guests attending the three-day 349th Wing Enlisted Workshop, *“Family, Service and Self,”* Oct. 18-20. Chief Master Sergeant Kenneth A. Mitchell, 4th Air Force command chief, (right) listens in to what the Chief has to say.

349th Air Mobility Wing's Annual Awards Ball

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt.
Meredith Mingledorff
349th Public Affairs*

Chocolate flowed from a fountain as guests flowed into the ballroom at the Delta Breeze Club here Oct. 21.

The glamorous event was the first 349th Air Mobility Wing Awards Ball hosted by Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing commander and sponsored by the 349th AMW Company Grade Officers' Council.

The festivities began at 6 p.m. as finely dressed guests arrived to enjoy the social hour before dinner. As others mingled, award nominees met with Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

The evening honored annual award winners from across the wing with an elegant ceremony attended by 350 service-members, guests, and Department of Defense civilians.

The Honor Guard opened the festivities with an impressive sword cordon to welcome the official party. With flawless uniforms and precision timing the detail posted the colors before honoring our men and women who are missing in action and prisoners of war. The moving ceremony was done with pride and dignity. In a darkened room, attendees bowed their heads to honor those missing from all five

branches of the United States military.

As the lights came up, the 349th Wing members welcomed distinguished visitors from the 60th Air Mobility Wing, including Col. Steve Arquette, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander; Col. Thomas J. Sharpy, 60th AMW vice commander; Chief Master Sgt. Michael M. Williams, 60th AMW command chief.

The 349th was honored to welcome Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, Air Force Reserve Command command chief and Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth A. Mitchell, 4th Air Force command chief. As well as other distinguished guests, including the Honorable Harry T. Price, Mayor of Fairfield and his wife Betsy; and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Dale Baumler, former 349th AMW and 4th Air Force commander.

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Duignan, 4th Air Force commander, was the event's guest speaker. He thanked the men and women in uniform as well as their family and friends for their many sacrifices.

"We can't do our jobs without you," said General Duignan to the family members in attendance. "Every single one of you is very important and we can't win this war without you. We have to win this battle!"

General Duignan stressed the importance of training and personal readiness.

"Leadership opportunities are there for everybody," he said. "Develop these skills

as early as you can so we can figure out where we're going. You can't wait until a situation is on you to know what you're gonna do."

"We do what we do so that the rest of the American public can do what they do. Don't ever forget that," said General Duignan.

Following



Travis Air Force Base Honor Guard welcomes the 349th AMW commander and his wife, Cleo Gisler, as they arrive at the first 349th Air Mobility Wing Awards Ball sponsored by the Company Grade Officers' Council.



Master Sgt. John D. McKern, 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, AGE Flight Servicing Supervisor, and his wife, Patricia E. McKern.

General Duignan's remarks, General Gisler, took the stage to thank General Duignan for his words of wisdom and reiterated the importance of our men and women in uniform.

"These award winners are just a few of the outstanding individuals we have in our wing," said General Gisler. "Individuals such as these and their counterparts in the

all - 'Service Before Self' proves fun for all



Evening's host, Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, 349th AMW, enters the Delta Breeze Club, Oct 21. Sponsored by the 349th AMW Company Grade

workplace are the reason we are all winners! Nobody does it alone, recognition is important, so take care of your people!"

Two armed guards then came bursting through the doors with guns drawn and wearing protective vests. A briefcase, handcuffed to a guard's wrist was unlocked and handed over to Capt. Samuel

T. Dickson, Master of Ceremonies and commander, 349th Security Forces Squadron.

"We have kept the names of the award winners under tight lock and key," joked, Captain Dickson.

Joined by Chief Master Sgt. Patricia A. Thornton, 349th command chief, General Gisler presented each of the wing's seven annual awards:

-349th Annual Look Sharp Award winner in the officer category was, **Capt. Susan Labrecque**, 349th AMW.

-349th Annual Look Sharp Award winner in the enlisted category was, **Senior Airman Geoffrey D. Henry**, 82nd Aerial Port Squadron.

-349th Airman of the Year Award winner was **Senior Airman Andrew L. Haydon**, 349th Medical Squadron.

-349th Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award winner was **Staff Sgt. Todd W. Morrow**, 349th Security Forces Squadron.

-349th Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award winner was **Master Sgt. Dianne L. Valdez**, 312th Airlift Squadron.

-349th First Sergeant of the Year Award winner was **Senior Master Sgt. Randel E. White**, 45th Aerial Port Squadron.

-349th Company Grade Officer of the Year Award winner was **Capt. Loren L. Hanks**, 349th Operations Support Flight.

General Gisler and Capt. Clarissa Tuttle, 349th Company Grade Officers' Council president, presented a gift basket to General Duignan to thank him for taking time out of his hectic schedule to speak with our wing members.

General Gisler then pointed out what an outstanding job the Company Grade Officers' Council did in sponsoring the event and thanked Captain Tuttle, 349th AMW Military Equal Opportunity; Capt. Michelle Bonilla, 349th AMW Performance Planner; and 1st Lt. Robin M. Jackson, 349th AMW Public Affairs, for their hard work and dedicated service.

With that, the commander invited everyone to stay for dancing and music provided by Travis' very own Band of the Golden West's rock group, "Mobility." Guests danced until well after midnight.

As the evening came to a close and Col. Robert K. Millmann, 349th AMW vice commander had twisted his way to a perfect 'Physical Training' score; the band began to pack up. The Company Grade Officers' Council stayed to clean up the aftermath of the very event they had put so many months of planning into. Captains Tuttle, Bonilla and Lieutenant Jackson sat for a moment and reflected with tired grins.

Nearly one o'clock in the morning the team left -- shining stars after an eighteen-hour day, a successful event due directly to putting into action the event's theme, "Service before Self."

A core value demonstrated consistently throughout the 349th by award winners and those waiting for awards, noted Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell as he appeared in the darkness of the parking lot. The Chief remarked, "An outstanding evening hosted by an outstanding wing, thank you for your service and everything you do."

Indeed, thank you 349th members, for all you do, both in and out of uniform. Your service before self, excellence in all you do, and integrity are worthy of celebration this year, next year, and every moment of everyday. Cheers!



Capt. John V. Brennan, 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Maintenance Officer, and his guest, Carrie B. Fletcher enjoy a flowing fountain of Belgium chocolate and treats at the 349th Annual Awards Ball, Oct. 21.

CSAF: Today's Air Force best in service's history

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates
Air Force Print News

Today's Airmen make up the best air and space force in the world, said the Air Force's top general during a speech Oct. 20.

Speaking at the 42nd Air Force Villages Chairman's Dinner, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley said he is proud to wear the same uniform and serve alongside today's men and women of the Air Force.



Photo by Technical Sgt. Larry A. Simmons, U.S. Air Force

Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. T. Michael Moseley speaks at the Air Force Villages dinner Oct. 20, 2006, at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The Villages offer premier active living communities for retired and honorably separated officers and their spouses, widows and widowers over the age of 62.

Still, he added, they have tough shoes to fill.

"This generation of Airmen is as good as ever," said the general. "But they are standing on the shoulders of giants."

These giants are the thousands of men and women from previous generations who fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam Conflict and made the Air Force what it is today, the best Air Force the world has ever seen.

Like those of these previous generations, today's Airmen are also at war, fighting in a new kind of conflict that requires a new style of tactics, said General Moseley.

"The war on terrorism is a new fight ... it requires a whole new set of tools," said the general.

This new fight has also brought to the forefront several new priorities for the Air Force. According to General Moseley, these are replacing the aging tanker fleet, finding and producing a new combat rescue helicopter, upgrading the service's communications and surveillance satellites, getting the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter operational and developing the next generation of long-range bomber.

While these five priorities are critical to maintaining a modern and well-equipped Air Force, the general added that it is the people and not the machines that make the service so great.

"The real treasure of the Air Force is its people," he said.

Today's Airmen are winning wars because they exhibit the Air Force core values of excellence, service and integrity every day in everything they do. The general said he is confident in the Air Force's ability to accomplish any mission because he is confident in the abilities of its people.

"Our mission is to fly and fight," said General Moseley. "That's what we do and we do it well."

Justice Department web site explains military rights

by Jim Garamone
American Force Press Service

The Department of Justice has launched a Web site to protect servicemembers' rights, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales said.

Attorney General Gonzales, speaking to the Disabled American Veterans annual convention in Chicago this past August, said the Justice Department has made it a priority to enforce civil rights laws for American servicemembers.

"The law recognizes that although we can never thank you enough for your service, we can take away some of the worries that soldiers might face when they are deployed," he said in prepared remarks.

The government promises that servicemembers' jobs will still be theirs

when they come home and that they cannot be discriminated against by their employers because of their military service.

The Justice Department web site, www.servicemembers.gov, outlines the rights members have under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

"These basic civil rights are enforced by the Department of Justice, and I can assure you that the department's staff and prosecutors are deeply committed to these enforcement efforts," Attorney General Gonzales said.

In one case, Justice Department officials filed its first complaint alleging that American Airlines violated rights of employees who also serve as military

pilots. The case was brought on behalf of three military pilots employed by American Airlines. It states that the airline reduced the employment benefits of pilots who had taken military leave, while not reducing the same benefits for pilots who had taken similar, non-military leave.

"What leads an employer to treat a soldier like an inconvenience is something for a higher power to judge. But here on earth, we have USERRA, and we'll use it."

He also addressed the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. "It's hard to respond to a civil lawsuit while you're focused on improvised explosive devices, and the law protects servicemembers for that reason."

Attorney General Gonzales urged any member with questions to go to the web site. Military lawyers can also help navigate through the laws.

Workshop...

Continued from Page 5

and Development, will actually allow us to save money in the long run due to the wash-and-wear factor, no more dry-cleaning or starch required. Plus only one uniform, versus summer and winter BDUs, will be issued. Regarding retirement, it is an ongoing issue with Congress. He urged everyone to join a professional military organization and strengthen their power to lobby Congress, take advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan, and be advised that there was a 2.2 percent increase in pay signed into the new fiscal budget. Following Chief Winsett was the command chiefs' panel. Issues discussed were: child care on the weekends, mentoring, how do we retain our members, Tricare, new computer passwords every 90 days, use of funds. The chiefs presented a united front on all topics. Mentoring needs to happen at all levels. Keep your people happy in their jobs, be committed to what you do, make sure they have work, focus on the positive, inspire, recognize, award, be grateful, and you will retain your people. Tricare continues to be an ongoing issue, and concerns will be routed up. Computer access passwords are constantly changing, and it is a pain, but necessary for security purposes. Most importantly, we need to commit to training, degrees and advancement. Everyone was encouraged to obtain their associate degree from the Community College of the Air Force.

Chief Winsett concluded by reiterating that with limited budgets, that we need to

be more efficient, more effective, maximizing our people to work smarter, worker harder and to get the mission done. There are more joint service ventures due to the requirements in the area of responsibility, schools, and training. We need to be fit, and standards are being enforced. The number one priority is to know your job. Number two is to get the education and training needed. Always be prepared, because activation can happen at any time. It is imperative to have your family, employer, school, training and records up to date. It is your responsibility to take care of your career.

The final day opened with Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan's message to the room of airman to chiefs, "It is just as easy to do it right as it is to do it wrong. We do what we do, so that civilians, employers, family can do what they do," the General said. "Take pride in wearing your uniform. Don't get discouraged by negative comments about the war, it doesn't reflect on the job we do in the military, because what we do is important." He emphasized, "expand your horizons, which will expand your opportunities."

The General then conducted a mass reenlistment of 20 military members including the 349th's own Command Chief Thornton.

"I appreciate the opportunity to be able to reenlist our personnel. It is one of my favorite things about this job. Thank you for allowing me to do this," said General Duignan.

Interaction with the command

"The opportunity to engage and interact with the senior command personnel of the Air Force Reserve is a rare opportunity indeed. I'm glad I came to this workshop."

**-- Master Sgt. Paul Ikeda
45th Aerial Port Squadron**

leadership was an incredible opportunity to tap into the years of experience, knowledge and wisdom and to have that available to the enlisted personnel was truly motivating. It took the commitment of the 349th command, the Wing Enlisted Workshop committee and all the command chiefs to make this fabulous event a reality.

A special thanks goes out to Master Sgt. Kari Sumner, 349th Component Maintenance Squadron, and all the fabulous enlisted committee members for a job well done.

For those who attended, they are now "on fire" to improve; for those that missed it, check future issues of the *Contact* and be ready to mark your calendars.



Photo by Laura Fentress, Base Multimedia Center

Special guest, Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, commander, 4th Air Force, takes questions from the audience at the 6th Annual Wing Enlisted Workshop, 'Family, Service and Self,' Oct. 18 – 20.

Compensation, pay table increases

With the 2.2 percent across-the-board pay raise that is part of the Fiscal 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, the Defense Department will reach its goal to bring military basic pay to the 70th percentile when compared to civilians with comparable education and training, a top DOD compensation. The goal which grew out of the 9th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation released in 2002, which concluded that basic pay did not adequately compensate an increasingly educated military force.

The pay raise, which kicks in Jan. 1, matches the employment cost index for the year. Also helping DOD reach its goal is targeted pay raises for servicemembers in grades E-5 to E-7 and warrant officers that go into effect April 1.

But compensation is more than simply basic pay. While servicemembers have seen a basic pay increase since 2001 of roughly 28 percent, basic allowance for housing has risen over 50 percent. When officials talk about compensation, they include basic allowance for housing, basic allowance for subsistence, basic pay and the tax advantage for not having allowances taxed.

The act also extends the military pay table to 40 years. The pay table has regular longevity increases from 30 to 40 years of service, and a servicemember retiring after 40 years of service would receive 100 percent of basic pay. (AFPN)

Nine career fields open to Reserve members

Veterans interested in joining the Air Force or becoming an active-duty Airman once again may be eligible if they have served in one of nine career fields.

During fiscal 2007, the Air Force Prior Service Enlistment Program is available to 40 veterans who have served in the following careers:

- airborne or ground cryptologic linguist.
- combat control.
- tactical air command and control.
- survival, evasion, resist and escape operations.
- pararescue.
- explosive ordnance disposal.
- premier or regional band.

Applicants must have separated from military service in the pay grade of E-5 or below and have no more than six years total active federal military service.

Prior-service applicants include those who have served in the Air Force, Army, Navy or Marine Corps; Reserve or Guard; or as an individual mobilization augmentee ordered to extended active duty for the limited period recall program, Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve veterans are eligible for direct duty only. No retraining is authorized.

Eligibility requirements in the prior service enlistment program

vary. Veterans interested in applying for Air Force active-duty service are encouraged to contact their local recruiter. Veterans can access the www.airforce.com web site and click on the “Contact Us” and “Locate an Advisor” links either to request a recruiter contact them or to find a recruiting office. (AFPN)

Click your mouse, put together your uniform

With the latest edition to the Exchange Online Store, busy troops can now assemble their uniforms with just a few clicks of the mouse.

The virtual exchange’s new “Uniform Ready-to-Wear” site makes it easy to complete uniform orders through one easy-to-use web page. The final product is shipped to the Airmen’s door, ready to wear right out of the box, with no assembly required.

ACUs and BDUs can be ordered along with add-on items such as boots, belts, t-shirts and socks. For a small fee a local alterations contractor will even attach all nametapes, rank, insignia, badges and patches on BDUs before they are mailed.

Operational since July 24, the “Uniform Ready-to-Wear” site may be accessed by logging on to www.aafes.com. From there, military service members need only to select “Military Uniforms Ready-to-Wear” to begin creating their custom uniform. (AAFES)

Civilian health open season ends soon

The Office of Personnel Management announced open season will be now through Dec. 11 for three civilian benefit programs.

The three programs are the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program and the new Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program.

Enrollment may be conducted through the Employee Benefits Information System web site, located behind the Air Force Portal and the AFPC Secure Web site. Employees with self and family coverage or other insurance can use EBIS to submit their elections to enroll or change plans without having to speak with a counselor to complete the transaction. Another advantage of making an election via EBIS is employees can print a copy of Standard Form 2809, the health benefits election form, as soon as they complete the election.

Employees may also use the BEST automated phone system at (800) 616-3775 for employees in the United States (press 2 for Air Force-serviced civilians, then 2 for BEST benefits and entitlements, and follow the prompts). Hearing impaired employees may call the TDD line at (800) 382-0893.

For more information on any of these programs or other civilian employee benefits and entitlements, visit the BEST web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>; click on Civilian Employees, then on Benefits and Entitlements. (AFPC)

349th Maintenance Group Quarterly Award Winners 4th Quarter 2006

Senior Noncommissioned Officer
Master Sgt. Arthur Garza,
349th Equipment Maintenance
Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer
Staff Sgt. Adan A. Reyes,
749th Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron

Airman
**Senior Airman
Matthew Hamilton,**
945th Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron

Promotions



Chief Master Sergeant

David W. Delemos,
349th Civil Engineer Squadron



Senior Master Sergeant

David L. Bradley,
349th Component Maintenance Squadron
Fe M. Felipe-Cubacha,
349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Pamela D. Rickling,
349th Air Mobility Wing
Barbara E. West,
349th Civil Engineer Squadron



Master Sergeant

Ellis A. Archerda,
349th Civil Engineer Squadron
Keith J. Barton,
349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Nicholas E. Bugni,
349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron
Katherine W. Castro,
349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Robert E. Farris,
349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Richard H. Heumann,
82nd Aerial Port Squadron
Grayland L. Hilt,
349th Air Mobility Wing
William E. Nuttall,
349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Julian M. Ortega,
349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Paul R. Rogers,
349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
Charles L. Shaffer,
349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron
Thomas J. Waldsmith,
82nd Aerial Port Squadron
Daniel R. Willson,
349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron



Technical Sergeant

Ramiro C. Blanco,
82nd Aerial Port Squadron
Brian A. Campbell,
301st Airlift Squadron
Myla C. Ferrer,
349th Memorial Affairs Squadron
Jimmy J. Gomez,
349th Security Forces Squadron

Teresa D. Gomez,

349th Memorial Affairs Squadron

Dion M. Graham,

349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Melanie L. Pascua,

349th Medical Squadron

Gregg R. Schiller,

349th Component Maintenance Squadron

Michael J. Sicoli,

349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Lawrence D. Wilbur,

349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron



Staff Sergeant

Aaron J. Armstrong,
55th Aerial Port Squadron
Jonathan M. Aspling,
349th Civil Engineer Squadron
Jennifer L. Bordner,
45th Aerial Port Squadron
Michael A. Butac,
349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Manny B. Carnero,
749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Jimmy B. Garzon,
349th Medical Squadron
Jeremiah R. Gonzales,
349th Security Forces Squadron
Alan J. Greene,
70th Air Refueling Squadron
Blake P. Johnson,
349th Communications Squadron
Jeremy A. Kemp,
349th Operations Support Flight
James P. McCoy,
301st Airlift Squadron
Marie I. McCoy,
604th Medical Squadron
Scott A. McCoy,
301st Airlift Squadron
Andrea L. McDonald,
349th Medical Squadron
Alice T. Milton,
349th Operations Group
Michael A. Pena,
349th Security Forces Squadron
Richard W. Poff, Jr.,
749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Kevin A. Seigal,
349th Medical Squadron
Denoris Smith,
349th Civil Engineer Squadron
Brittan M. Stockert,
349th Mission Support Squadron
Ruth Tang,
349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Lauren A. Vogus,
749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Brian D. Whitmer,
749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



Senior Airman

Kimberly M. Bailey,
349th Security Forces Squadron
Megan E. Benne,
349th Aerospace Evacuation Squadron
Nicholas D. Bishop,
349th Communications Squadron
James A. Brinkman,
349th Medical Squadron
Susan A. Eno,
604th Medical Squadron
Jason W. Floyd,
604th Medical Squadron
Jeffrey T. Fortner,
82nd Aerial Port Squadron
Liza M. S. Franz,
349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Darrin H. Govan,
349th Communications Squadron
Lucas M. Harbin,
55th Aerial Port Squadron
Monica M. Medina,
704th Medical Squadron
Graciela Moreland,
349th Component Maintenance Squadron
Osvaldo Santillan,
82nd Aerial Port Squadron
Travis G. Suasa,
55th Aerial Port Squadron
Davin I. Takeuchi,
55th Aerial Port Squadron



Airman First Class

Cassandra T. Lock,
349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Crystal L. Moschetti,
349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Tyler J. Underwood,
349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Ronald B. Sharpe,
349th Civil Engineer Squadron
Christopher A. Grove,
349th Communications Squadron
Jorge A. Silva,
349th Communications Squadron
Heather A. Souza,
349th Logistics Readiness Flight
Nyasha M. Champ,
349th Security Forces Squadron
Autumn R. Ohlendorf,
349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



Airman

Michelle E. Fowler,
349th Medical Squadron

(Promotions effective Nov. 1, 2006)

NCO Leadership Graduates



Superior Wingmen: Twenty-two 349th Air Mobility Wing's enlisted members graduated from the Travis Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development Program, Nov. 3. This two-week course, offered locally to military members, assists in their career growth and development of leadership skills. For additional information about the course, contact Master Sgt. Debra C. Chappell, 349th Mission Support Squadron, (707) 424-1615.

(Back to the front left to right) SSgt Danilo G. Ramos, 55th APS; SSgt Gregg R. Schiller, 349th CMS; TSgt Joseph K. Houston, 349th CS; SSgt Vantory Miles, 55th APS; TSgt George L. Kirbyson, 349th AMXS; SSgt Michael A. Morris, 349th LRF; TSgt Christopher J. Dierkes, 349th AMXS; TSgt Rodolfo Landa, 749th AMXS; SSgt Nicole R. McCalmon, 349th AES; SSgt Michael T. Cassidy, 349th CS; TSgt Jesse A. Farley, 79th ARS; TSgt Brian J. Huber, 301st AS; SSgt James A. Snyder, 349th AMXS; SSgt Russel F. Mizer, 749th AMXS; SSgt Tristina L. Senter, 312th AS; TSgt Jasmine M. Siu-Cain, 349th CS; SSgt Jerome P. Latona, 749th AMXS; SSgt Renny A. Gabor, 349th CMS; TSgt Aldwin J. Donaldo, 349th AES; SSgt Neelie M. Bradley, 349th ASTS; SSgt Delmora Holman-McClendon, 349th ASTS; SSgt Michael C. Lanning, 749th AMXS.

**349th AIR MOBILITY WING
520 WALDRON STREET
TRAVIS AFB CA 94535-2100
OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**PRESORT FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HAYWARD, CA
PERMIT NO. 3335**

Operation Teddy Bear



Through the Holiday Season, Santa and his elves, along with assistance from Air Force members, make their "rounds" bringing cheer and spreading good will to the local area elementary schools.

If you would like to help or just want further information contact Senior Master Sgt. Mike Lattanzi, 945th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, (707) 424-5401, or by email at: michael.lattanzi@travis.af.mil.

